(b) if so, the details of the success achieved as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) had organised a trade fair in Beijing, during October 2003. Over 100 Indian companies participated in the fair and depicted information about Information Technology, Tourism, India's economic strengths, iron & steel, auto parts, textiles, Indian Health Care Industry, manufacturing design and development, communications, cement and Indian capabilities from small, medium & large sectors. The fair is expected to help in bridging the information gap between the businessmen of two countries, strengthening people to people contact and promoting trade between the two countries.

Benefits of US generalised system of preferences

488. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has managed to convince Washington to restore the benefits under the US generalised system of preferences for about 850 agricultural, chemicals and pharmaceutical products from the country;

(b) if so, whether the US Government was urged to bring these items within the purview of the GSP scheme;

(c) if so, the US Government's reaction thereto;

(d) whether the GSP is extended by the US to 140 developing countries, including India; and

(e) if so, to what extent this decision has been implemented and helpful to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) to (c) US Government presently denies Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) benefits to about 850 agricultural, chemicals and pharmaceutical products from India. These products are eligible for GSP benefits from other countries and India's request for early restoration of GSP benefits on

these products has received positive indications for consideration by the US Government.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. US Government presently extends the benefit of GSP Scheme to about 140 developing countries including India. In the calender year 2002 India exported duty free products worth about US $ 2 billion under the US GSP programme.

Growth rate of industrial production

489. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the growth rate of industrial production has declined after 1996-97;

(b) if so, the trends in growth of industrial production since 1991-92;

(c) the reasons for decline in the industrial production in recent years; and

(d) the steps taken to boost industrial production especially capital goods and consumer durables?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) There has been a continuous though fluctuating increase in industrial production since 1991-92 as reflected in the trend in the growth of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) in the Table below. The fluctuation in the growth rate of overall industrial production to some extent is attributed to a combination of supply and demand factors. Growth rates for the years 1991-92, 1992-93 and 1993-94 are based on IIP (Base: 1980-81=100) and for the subsequent years on IIP (Base: 1993-94=100).

Trend in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)

Financial Year	Growth rate in IIP in per cent
1991-92	0.6
1992-93	2.3